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Corea, its Postal Organization and its Postage Stamps.

BY JULES BOUVÉZ.

[Continued from page 247.]

The year 1900 was, as we have already said, that of the entry of the Corean Empire into the Universal Postal Union. This important event necessarily brought about another, the stable and definitive organization of the postal service and the adoption of special measures for the dispatch, exchange and distribution of mail matter.

Beginning January 1st, 1900, the Corean post office was placed under the authority of the Secretary and Assistant Secretary of Agriculture, Commerce and Public Works. At the head of the Administration was put a Director of Communications, whose duty it was to direct the postal service, the telegraph service, as well as the railways and navigation. A distinct budget was created for the postal service, and to the Director of Communications was entrusted the ordering of the expenses and the control of the receipts of this service. Independently of a central office, with the title of Office of the Management of the Postal Department, which was established at Seoul, there were organized in the empire 34 fully equipped offices and 321 secondary offices which worked successively from January 1st, 1900. Furthermore, 458 services of foot postmen (runners) were created, to ensure the daily service in the empire, both on the chief postal routes and on the secondary systems. The central office at Seoul, to which all the other offices were subordinate, gave employment, on January 1st, 1900, to one Director, 17 Secretaries (chusas), 33 foot postmen, 13 distributors and collectors and four service boys. To facilitate the exchange and transport of the shipments—which had been carried on until then only by runners—this service was, in a large measure, carried on by sea by means of Japanese boats serving the coasts. The international service could then be divided among the offices of Seoul, Chemulpho, Mokpho, Fusan and Wonson, which were thenceforth considered as central exchange offices. The Postal Administration placed in these offices Secretaries, former pupils of the Imperial French

College, who had followed the special courses given by an Instructing Counsellor whom the Corean Government had employed from the month of December, 1898.

Following this organization, the Corean Postal Administration at Seoul caused to be manufactured, by Japanese workmen who had been engaged by the Secretary of Agriculture, Commerce and Public Works, a new set of postage stamps which were to be used for the prepayment of correspondence concurrently with the stamps of the old type and until the complete exhaustion of the latter.

It is known that, according to the international convention, the postage stamps representing the type rates of the Union, or their equivalents, were to be prepared, as far as possible, in the following colors: 5 cents and its equivalents in dark blue, 2 cents in red and 1 cent in green. The Corean Post Office, being badly equipped for the manufacture of its stamps and wishing, first of all, to get rid of its stamps of the old type, thought it would conform to the provisions of the convention only as regarded the stamp of 4 cheun (20 poon), equivalent to 2 cents, and it gave to the stamps of 2 and 10 cheun (1 and 5 cents or 10 and 50 poon) the colors of their equivalents in poon which had been originally used. It decided, moreover, that, while waiting for the issue of the stamp of 1 cheun of the new set, the stamp of 25 poon, maroon, which denomination no longer represented any rate in the postal tariff, should be transformed by means of a surcharge into a 1 cheun stamp. This surcharge was applied in July, 1900, and the inscriptions in Chinese and Corean, placed in the vertical frames on each side of the stamp in the old issue, were also surcharged. This work, done by means of a hand stamp, produced several varieties as to the place occupied on the stamp by the surcharged figure; this was inclined sometimes to the right and sometimes to the left; it was even put upside down on some copies. There exist also some stamps on which the surcharge "1" is lacking, but these are very rare.

A few sheets of the 5 poon, yellow-green, of the printing of 1899, were surcharged in the same way, for the reason that the rate of 5 poon was exactly the equivalent of the stamp of 1 cheun green, the creation of which had been proposed.

The first two stamps of the new set, which appeared on January 15th, 1900, were the 2 cheun blue and the 3 cheun orange-red.

The 2 cheun was the value of which the need had been most felt, for the stock of its equivalent, the 10 poon of the old type, which was one of those most used, was almost exhausted at the time of the entry of Corea into the Universal Postal Union.

As to the 3 cheun, used concurrently with the 5 poon of the old type, it was to facilitate the using up of this latter stamp, for the simultaneous use of two stamps for one and the same prepayment represented the rate equivalent to 2 cents in American money or 10 centimes in French money; it is for this reason that the red color adopted by the Union was given to the 3 cheun of the new series.



These two values, of the types shown herewith, perforated 10, measure $23\frac{1}{2} \times 19$ mm. and reproduce the same attributes and the same inscriptions, but arranged differently. In the 2 cheun, the coat-of-arms—which comprises the blossom of the plum tree and the Yn Yang, accompanied by oriental characters—is found in the center of an oval, whilst in the 3 cheun the same arms are found in the upper part of a circle. Other characters, oriental and European, surround the oval and the circle; notably, we read "IMPERIAL KOREAN POST." With regard to the value, it is found indicated in Corean characters in the upper right corner in the 2 cheun, and at the side of the value in Latin characters in the 3 cheun.

On July 15th, 1900, stamps of 2 rin and 1, 4, 5 and 6 cheun came to complete the new set.

It will not be without its use to give here a few notes in regard to Corean money, the unit of which is the silver dollar, equal to 50 cents of American money or 2fr. 50c in French money.

The dollar is divided into 5 yang or 100 cheun, the cheun is equivalent to 5 poon or sapec or cash, and the poon is worth 2 rin. We may say that the value of the Corean cheun is equal to that of the Japanese *sen*, that is to say that 100 cheun are equal to 1 yen. As to the poon, which is worth 2 rin, it is equal to 1.5 of a sen.



The five stamps which, on July 5th, 1900, completed the set in use were the following:

2 rin gray (1 poon)	equivalent to $\frac{1}{2}$ centime or 1-10 of a cent
1 cheun green (5 poon)	" " $2\frac{1}{2}$ centimes or $\frac{1}{4}$ " " "
4 cheun bright pink (20 poon)	equivalent to 10 centimes or 2 cents
5 cheun pale pink (25 poon)	" " $12\frac{1}{2}$ " " $2\frac{1}{2}$ "
6 cheun dark blue (30 poon)	" " 15 " " 3 "

As will be seen by the illustrations above, all these stamps were issued in the same style as the first two, in frames entirely different, but with the same attributes and inscriptions, oriental and European.



On October 1st, 1900, there appeared a stamp of 15 cheun gray-violet and, on November 15th, another of 20 cheun red-brown, of the types herewith. In consequence of an accident to the machine used for printing them, it was not until March 15th, 1901, that they were able to issue the 10 cheun

violet stamp, the need of which had been felt for a long while, for it was to serve for the prepayment of registered mail and to take the place of the 50 poon, of the same color, of the preceding issue.



The 2 cheun blue stamp, the use of which had, by January 1st, 1901, exceeded anticipations, was, on the printing of the 10 cheun, replaced by a new stamp, of the type which is also shown. Finally, six months later, the



set was definitively completed by three high values, the last two of which were expressed in wen. They were the 50 cheun green and pink, the 1 dollar grey-blue and pink and the 2 dollars green and violet, like the illustrations shown above. The use of this set of thirteen values was not to have a very long duration for, in June, 1902, the Korean Postal Administration, which had recognized the insufficiency of its equipment for the manufacture of postage stamps, ordered from the factory on the Boulevard Brune, in Paris, a new set of fifteen values, of large size, destined to take the place of the current issue.

However, the execution of this order having been delayed, and the stock of 1, 2 and 3 cheun stamps being on the point of running out, the Korean Administration found itself under the necessity of having recourse to fresh provisional stamps. These were made by surcharging with 1, 2 and 3 cheun the stamps of 25 and 50 poon, a fairly large stock of which remained over from the last printing of 1899.



This surcharge, which we reproduce above, shows the word "cheun" in Korean characters : the word is surmounted by one, two or three horizontal bars, to represent the figures 1, 2 or 3 of the value.



About October 10th, 1902, a large-size, commemorative stamp of the type shown herewith was issued, bearing the imperial tiara in the center of a lozenge, having in each corner the blossom of the plum tree and on the sides the inscription "XL ann. Jubilé d'avènement" in the oriental language and in French. In a narrow frame at the top we read, in Chinese characters, the inscription "Postage Stamp of the Empire of Korea," and, in a lower frame of the same dimensions as the first, the inscription "Postes de Corée." The figure of value is repeated twice in the two languages in the four corners of the design. This stamp was engraved at Seoul, by an artist attached to the mint at Ryong San. It reproduces very exactly the design which appeared on commemorative medals struck off on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the birth of the Emperor and which were distributed to the members of the consular diplomatic corps at Seoul.



The set of stamps ordered in Paris did not appear until the end of 1903; it was composed of the thirteen values following:

2 rin gray, 1c red brown, 2c green, 3c orange, 4c carmine, 5c bistre, 6c violet, 10c blue, 15c brown on yellow, 60c carmine on green, 1 dollar violet on lilac, 2 dollars violet on orange.

These stamps, printed on plain white paper, measure $21\frac{1}{2} \times 36\frac{1}{2}$ mm. and are perforated 14. As is shown by the illustration above, the principal subject, with French inscriptions at the left, Korean at the right, represents a falcon in heraldic pose, holding to the left a sheathed sword and to the right a terrestrial globe. On its breast is the Yn-yang surrounded by Pa-koua, which have been already described; four minute Yn-yangs also appear on each of the wings of the falcon. The double circle surrounding the symbol is cut in the upper part by a small circle with a Chinese inscription. In the lower part is to be seen the coat of arms (plum blossom) which is also reproduced four times in the branches of the foliage surrounding the escutcheon. These stamps, although at present current, may be considered when cancelled as good values to collect, for it is with difficulty that they can be obtained,

as the present war, the issue of which can not be foreseen, has placed new and very serious obstacles in the way of the regular working of the Korean post.

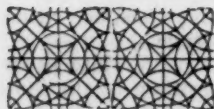
One fact which we can not pass over in silence before closing this study, is the issue of Korean surcharges on Japanese stamps.

It is not uninteresting to point out at this time that, in 1872, Korea having, for some unexplained reason, commenced hostilities against Japan by firing from the forts on a Japanese ship making a hydrographic survey of the coast, and having renewed this exploit the next day against boats sent from the ship to obtain provisions on the island of Koku, brought on herself the enmity of Japan, which hastened to make a naval demonstration. This event resulted in the opening of several Korean ports to international commerce, by which Japan very specially profited.

In March, 1900, the importance of business led the Japanese Postal Administration to establish post offices in Korean territory, as it has done in China, and there to make use, for the prepayment of correspondence intended for countries of the Universal Postal Union, of the set of thirteen stamps of Japan which were then in use, after having given them a surcharge. This surcharge reproduces the four Japanese characters shown below, which are translated by "Chosen" (Korea).

朝鮮

However, the maintenance of this decision was not of long duration, for, after April 1st, 1901, the Japanese Postal Administration made use of postage stamps without surcharge in the offices of Chemulpho, Chinampho, Fusan, Kousan, Mosan, Pingyang, Mukho, Seoul, Sungchin and Yuensan, which it had established in Korea.



Some Stamp Designs.*

By C. A. HOWES.

[Continued from page 254.]

In the fall of 1893 Shanghai prepared to celebrate her fiftieth anniversary, and naturally bethought herself of the jubilee stamp and the stamp collector. The report of the Commissioner of Customs for that year says: "1893 will remain memorable for the fact that it was the fiftieth year of the advent of Foreigners to Shanghai, and of the opening of the port to Foreign commerce. The occasion was fittingly celebrated on the 17th and 18th November by the entire Foreign community, supported by the Native population of the Settlement. The festivities arranged by the Municipal Council, which extended over the two days, were greatly enhanced by the tasteful decoration and illumination of the principal streets."

Shanghai was one of the five ports chosen by the British Government to be opened to foreign trade and settlement in accordance with the treaty of Nanking, to which we have already referred as closing the so called "Opium War" of 1840-2. The nucleus of the foreign settlement, which lies just outside the walls of the large native city, was the "British Concession", then mostly marsh, which was marked out in 1843 by the British Consul. In 1849 the French obtained a concession just south of the British settlement, and in 1863 a district north of the British town, known as Hong-kew and popularly called the "American Concession", though none was ever legally made to the United States, was incorporated with the British settlement for municipal purposes. The French settlement has its own municipal government, presided over by the French Consul, but the British and American sections, as stated, are under a single Municipal Council, of nine members elected by the land-renters, who are the voters.



The Jubilee stamp was ready and announcement of its issue made for November 15, 1893. A clipping from the *Shanghai Mercury* of that date gives us some interesting details:

"A Municipal Notification appeared in the papers yesterday informing the general public that the two-cents Jubilee Postage Stamps would be for sale at the Local Post Office on and after Wednesday, the 15th instant, between 10 A. M. and 4 P. M., and that the number of stamps to be sold to each purchaser was limited to 250 or to the value of \$5. These had to be paid for in dollar notes. Our reporter arrived on the scene about 10.10. At that time there were about 200 Foreigners of all sorts, sizes and nationalities, all pushing, hustling, howling,

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and some swearing, but all determined to have the first of the new stamps. By 10.15 the crowd had increased, when carriages and jinrickshas lined each side of the street for a considerable distance, and the people were so densely packed that those who had obtained an entrance to the small window, where it was only possible for one at a time to be served with the stamps, found it almost impossible to make an exit when served. * * * * *

The Post Master had a terrible time. The total issue of the Jubilee stamps is 360,000, and some 200,000 were taken by the public before the office closed this afternoon. \$2,900 worth were sold before tiffin time. The stamps will be on sale again tomorrow, and we hope steps will be taken to prevent the scene that was witnessed this morning being repeated."

The stamp itself is somewhat larger the ordinary ones and is of rather neat design. The principal feature is a figure of Mercury, the messenger of the gods, surrounded by a glory and resting one foot on a winged wheel. At the bottom is the *fascies*, the badge of the old Roman magistrates, and across it runs the motto found on the regular issue—IN UNO OMNIA JUNCTA. The inscriptions correspond to those already given: *Shanghai Kung Pu Shu Hsin Kuan* beneath the oval, and the value at the top: *yin liang fên*, "silver two cents"

The whole issue of this stamp was disposed of in two days, realizing \$7,200 Mexican. The success of the venture apparently turned the heads of the Municipal Council, for the next step was the surcharging of the regular stamps into a Jubilee series. The following notice was issued:

LOCAL POST OFFICE.

The Council have decided to make one issue of a limited quantity of ordinary stamps surcharged "Jubilee 1843-1893".

By order,

A. ROMER, *Local Postmaster.*

SHANGHAI, 1st Dec. 1893.

The "limited issue" proved to be 10,000 sets, and it was announced that the stamps would be sold "in complete sets only" and only by subscription. In spite of this bare faced speculation the entire lot was subscribed for before they were "issued" on December 14th. No sooner were they sold, however, than the Council decided to put the lower values ($\frac{1}{2}$, 1, 2 and 5 cents) on regular sale for use up to New Year's, and graciously added the envelopes, wrappers, postal cards and letter card. The 10, 15 and 20 cent values were not included in this "re-issue"—perhaps to keep partial faith, at least, with those who had purchased full sets on the "limited issue" basis.

This speculation was roundly denounced by the press of Shanghai which termed the stamps an "indefensible issue for commercial purposes." One paper says: "The stamp business is so popular that the mail business in Shanghai has been neglected, and the inhabitants who have depended upon the mail service are complaining bitterly that their letters are not promptly delivered." Probably public indignation had some effect, for from that time until the suppression of the Shanghai stamps, with all the other locals, when the Imperial Chinese Post came into operation on February 2, 1897, there was no further change in the stamps and no new issues, save the 4 and 6 cent surcharges of 1896 which were soon replaced by regular stamps in the current design.

Although all the other local post-offices were closed when the Imperial Post began its functions, the large local collections and deliveries of the Shanghai Post-office led to its being continued in this capacity, as the Imperial Post seemed unwilling to take such a large contract on its hands. It is still operating in this manner, and though, of course, using the regular Chinese stamps in its local business it employs a postmark having the familiar legend "Shanghai Local Post", which one now and again runs across on a Chinese stamp.

The Postage and Postage Due Stamps of Holland and Dutch Indies.

By E. W. WETHERELL.

[Continued from page 210.]

III.

Twelve years after the introduction of the great penny postage scheme into England, the first stamps of Holland made their appearance.

I propose to adopt the following method in dealing with the stamps and their variations: After describing the stamps, I shall list them in four columns, as suggested in part I of my article. The first column will be for prime varieties, i. e., stamps intended to be different by the government; column II will contain such variations of type, color, perforations, paper, etc., as the majority of collectors would take; column III will contain the minor varieties, dear to the heart of the specialist; and column IV will be devoted to curiosities, trivialities, etc. The stamps in column I will be numbered, and letters (a, b, c, etc.) will be added to the numbers for the other columns.

ISSUE OF JANUARY 1ST, 1852.

These stamps are "*taille douce*" engravings by Jacques Wiener of Brussels (the engraver of the stamps of the first issue of Belgium). They were printed at the mint at Utrecht (Mr. Melbourn mentions a first printing at Brussels, but this has not been confirmed), and the design consists of a portrait of King William III to right in an oval. The background is formed of horizontal lines. The frame is an upright rectangle with "POST" in the left and "ZEGEL" in the right upper corner. The numeral denoting the value occupies the left and the letter "c" the right lower corner. The paper is "cartridge", varying from thick—which is that usually met with—to medium (similar to the cartridge paper of the early Belgians). This paper is hand made, white wove, unsurfaced and slightly rough (consequently the stamps soil easily). The 5 cent stamps are on slightly bluish paper (surface only). Mr. Stewart Wilson states that this is due to the ink—I have large marginal strips and the blue tint extends fully a quarter of an inch from the edge of the stamps.

This is the only issue of Holland which is watermarked. The watermark is a posthorn, with mouth to the right, suspended by a sling with a single loop. I have never seen this watermark reversed or inverted. There were in the sheet four panes, each consisting of five rows of five stamps. Each pane was 98 mm. wide by 110 mm. high and there was a space of 10 mm. between the panes (This note is purloined from Mr. Stewart Wilson's article in the *P. J. I.*, for June, 1901). The *Illustriertes Briefmarken Journal* illustrated this watermark with its top inscription and frame lines, and it clearly shows that all the watermarks were slightly different. So far, however, I have not met the lunatic who attempts to plate the stamps by their watermarks. A rectangular frame of four lines encloses the posthorns. At the middle of each of the four sides of this frame, the second and third of the parallel lines are interrupted by the inscription "POSTZEGELS". The

stamps were usually well placed in the sheet, so that copies showing the frame lines, or parts of two watermarks, were unusual.

The letter "c" in the lower right hand corner varies slightly. Mr. Stewart Wilson suggests that this may be due to the "c" not having been engraved on the original die.

The gum, as already mentioned, is nearly always tinted, brownish or yellowish—sometimes it is deep brown and in that case stains the stamps.

The plates were frequently badly cleaned, so that printings are frequent which show no white at all. The 10c is the chief sinner in this respect. Some of the prints are so carelessly done that the stamp might be described as rose on pale rose. All the stamps may be found printed from worn dies, —the 10c, again, is the value most frequently met with in this condition. I have a copy of the 5c in which practically all the fine lines are wanting. The 15c, being less frequently used, does not show the wearing of the plates to such an extent as the other two values, and in my notes in the *P. f. I.* I stated that I had never seen the 15c in this condition. Lately two copies from very worn plates have, however, come into my possession.

The tints and shades vary considerably. Only one variation was, however, due to a government order and that was the change of the 5c from dark blue to light blue (as the postmarks did not show up well on the dark stamps), hence there are two prime varieties of the 5c value.

The following is a list of the stamps of the first issue :

PRIME VARIETIES. MAJOR VARIETIES. MINOR VARIETIES. TRIVIALITIES.

	For the beginner.	For the ordinary collector.	For the specialist.	For the microscopist
		SHADES & TINTS	WORN DIES.	PRINTED FROM BADLY CLEANED PLATES.
		IA 5c dark blue	ICb. 5c steel blue	
		IB 5c blue	IIIBb. 10c rose	
		IC 5c steel blue	IIICb. 10c pale rose	
		IIA 5c pale blue	IVBb. 15c orange	
		IIB 5c milky blue		
		IIC 5c ultramarine		
		IIIA 10c deep rose		IAc 5c dark blue
		IIIB 10c rose		IBc 5c blue
		IIIC 10c pale rose		IIIAc 10c deep rose
I. 5c DARK BLUE		IVA 15c rich orange	IA—IVC.	IIIBc 10c rose
II. 5c LIGHT BLUE		IVB 15c orange	with pale gum &	IIICc 10c pale rose
III. 10c ROSE		IVC 15c orange yellow	dark gum	IVBc 15c orange
IV. 15c ORANGE				IIIAc 15c orange yellow
				low
		O NTHINNER PAPER.		
		IBa 5c blue		
		IIIBa 10c rose		



Our English Letter.

By EDWARD J. NANKIVELL.

LONDON, June 25th, 1904

I wonder how many sharp eyed specialists possess varieties in their collections that they have not noticed. Mr. Stamford, a well known and careful collector, announces the discovery in his collection of a singular and hitherto unknown variety of British Bechuanaland, dating as far back as 1888. It is the $\frac{1}{2}$ d vermilion, overprinted "British Bechuanaland" in block letters with the word "Protectorate" between, in what is known as the larger size lettering, inverted, but in Mr. Stamford's copy spelt "Portectorate" instead of "Protectorate". This copy, he says, he had from Mr. Tamsen about three years ago in a block of four. Neither of them noticed the error at the time and it has only just been spotted by Mr. Stamford.

I am inclined to believe that most of us could confess to something of this sort of oversight, though probably not many to quite such lucky finds as Mr. Stamford's. Some years ago Mr. Yardley and I were having one of our Transvaal chats over my collection, and we were talking about a certain scarce variety of raised "R" in the "V. R." on the 1d red on orange. I was remarking on the absence of copies *se tenant* with the normal. I noticed that Mr. Yardley's eyes were glued to a fine block. "Why," he said "there it is in that block." I expressed my surprise, and then he said he thought I had been drawing his attention to this block with the variety. As a matter of fact I had had that block for several years, and during those years I had frequently hunted for that very variety *se tenant*, and had actually been outbid at an auction for a pair, and yet there in my own collection was the very thing in, so far as we can say, the finest block known, being a block of twelve, fine rouletted, and mint.

Now, I am going to hunt through my Bechuanas, of which I have a good many, for a copy of Mr. Stamford's "Portectorate" in the hope that I may have overlooked it. I am not very hopeful, but you never know what may turn up in your duplicates.

And talking about duplicates, I have known of lots of discoveries amongst specialists' stocks of duplicates. Some collectors exchange their duplicates in the first market that comes a long. They go in for Exchange Clubs and do a fine trade in that method of building up their collections. They are generally more collectors than students of their stamps. Your specialist who makes a study of his stamps, and some day gives the philatelic world the benefit of his researches, huddles up his duplicates, fearing and hesitating to part with even the most insignificant copy. He knows from long experience that he cannot have too many duplicates whilst he is working at a country. I have never known a specialist part with his duplicates who did not later have cause to regret having done so.

During the twenty years that I have been specialising in Transvaals I have only now and again parted with a duplicate, and I have reason to thank my lucky stars that I have huddled them up so long and so well, for now that I have parted with my gem collection, I am able to build up out of my duplicates a second specialised collection of Transvaals that already takes rank with the other Transvaal "Greats".

To my mind it seems a pity for any specialist to scatter his duplicates in dribblets here and there. He would serve the cause of philately much more if he would arrange them into subsidiary collections, and dispose of them in that form to collectors who would be glad of the start thus given them in the systematic formation of a specialist collection. It is only the specialist who can map out the outline of arrangement for specialising, and if the less experienced collector could have the help of a specially outlined nucleus he could more quickly build up a very creditable collection. It is the preliminary study that is so fruitful of discouragement to the average man.

Dealers have not the time for much of this sort of work, but could, and no doubt would, be quite ready to have a finger in the pie of such transactions as intermediaries. So many wealthy people are now coming into stamp collecting that this form of help will probably be much more appreciated some of these days.

I am, of course, aware that the leading dealers get their stock books arranged by specialists on specialist lines. Still, even the best of them do not cover the ground or yield the help that a specially arranged nucleus would do. An album planned out by a specialist with the normal types sprinkled here and there to guide the beginner-specialist would afford just the sort of help that the printed albums gives to the general collector.

For years I have advocated this idea of nucleus collections. I have suggested it to dealers, but there is the old reply "no time". And yet, over and over again, we hear the reason given for not going in for the stamps of this and that country, "Don't know anything about them." Let the specialist help in this way and he will find it an excellent method of increasing the number of fellow specialists of his favorite country. I have done a little in this way for beginners in Transvaals with their own puzzling lots. We specialists are much too backward in helping fellow specialists. And yet we all deplore the scarcity of collectors of our favorite countries. The specialist can do a great deal to popularize his favorite country outside of merely writing it up in the philatelic journals, and the formation of nucleus collections should afford him much pleasure and profit and materially increase the number of competent and successful specialists.

What variety there is too, in our methods of collecting. The wealthy and experienced collector of the specialist type when he takes up a country forthwith buys up the rarities of the country on which he is making a start.

They are his first consideration. Get them first is his creed. He knows he will have no trouble in getting the common stamps of any country. That is all right as a method for the long pocketed collector. Not being a long pocketed collector most of us have to begin at the other end. We map out the outline of a country with the normal types from some big dealers well arranged stock book and trust to a kind providence for the rarities. And it is surprising how much a patient collector can gather together in the shape of rarities by quietly keeping his eye open and searching for what he wants in the by lanes and alleys of the philatelic world.

The wealthy collector labors under many disadvantages that do not afflict his ordinary confrere. When it leaks out that the wealthy man is going for the samps of Timbuctoo, the stamps of Timbuctoo suddenly open out into all sorts of hitherto unheard of varieties at hitherto unheard of prices, and there is a general rise all along the line. There is such a run on the stamps of Timbuctoo, dont you know, that fine copies are at a premium.

The ordinary collector could collect the stamps of Timbuctoo to his hearts contents from year's end to year's end without raising the price of a single variety.

Hence the reason why the experienced dealers and collectors advise the ordinary collector to go in for the unpopular country which he can get cheaply, with the almost certain knowledge that he will some day be in the running, for every country comes to the front in its own good time if it is worth attention. Then, when the wealthy collector is paying fine prices for fine copies of the fashionable country, the poorer brother may gloat over his treasures, and boast of his fine copies, with the inner satisfaction that he has escaped the prohibitive prices of the latest catalogue.

There are many neglected countries to be found in the list to day that some of these fine days will in all probability be the fashion at high prices. The turn of the wheel comes round to all that are really fine. Look through the catalogues of the last few years and note, in face the steady decline of most prices, that here and there are stamps in little, neglected countries that no catalogue can cut down in price, even despite the lack of any active demand. Prices may be sordid bases for collecting, but there is no denying the fact that they are a very clear and keen index to the rarity and popularity of the general run of most stamps. For most collectors they are the only index. They also furnish very useful warnings to wise collectors as to scarce stamps that are running up out of reach.

LONDON, 30, July, 1904.

Our dear old philatelic Jeremiahs have had a great shock. As you know they have been copiously watering the banks of the river of Despondency with their tears; weeping piteously over the decadence of Philately, as shockingly evidenced by the wholesale speculation in new issues that has been

rampant. Poor things! they drew upon their sadly disturbed imaginations for their facts, and now, alas, their chief priest, has been compelled to admit that they have been wasting their emotions, and their tears, upon a miserable bogey of their own manufacture.

Hard facts have been too much for them. The hard facts are the published returns of our colonies showing the actual paucity of sales that have really been effected. In some cases there cannot have been even enough sold to go round the Jeremiahs. But an old issue dealer let the cat out of the bag in a conversation we had a few days since. He explained that the booming of new issues was seriously affecting the sales of old issues. Well now, if the devotees of the grand old issues, with all their historical associations and years of unstinted booming, cannot compete with the glitter of new issues they are to be pitied indeed.

Those who have not been present at meetings of the Philatelic Society of London when the croakers have been shaking their wise heads profoundly over the signs of the times have missed an impressive scene. I must not, however, describe those heartrending sights, for there is a special by-law, as you know, that would land me before the philatelic Star Chamber were I to attempt it. My irreverence for that ancient conclave has already run me perilously near the precipice of my reputation.

Let us be thankful, however, for the unmistakeable signs of returning life in the premier society. The library is assuming splendid proportions. There is even the promise of something worthy of the society's long life of past work. I understand that it has been materially helped with duplicates from the Earl of Crawford's collection of philatelic literature. We have at all events an exceptionally experienced librarian in Mr. Fulcher, and the members ought to support him to the utmost of their means in his endeavor to complete the library as far as possible.

The coming session is to be begun with full steam ahead. We are to be gathered together for our first meeting at the town residence of our Vice President, the Earl of Crawford, when we shall again have the great pleasure of inspecting his magnificent collection. Last year, after the purely business part of the meeting was disposed of, we were shown into his lordship's laboratory and there given permission to take down and inspect any of the imposing array of philatelic albums. It was a real treat and we shall be glad of a further visit. Then we are to open the session with our annual dinner instead of having it at the fag end of the session. Altogether we may congratulate ourselves that the dry rot which seemed to have taken hold of the Society may yet be got rid of by an energetic programme.

Those readers of the A. J. P. who acted on the advice I gave them long since to fill up their blanks of Northern and Southern Nigeria while they could at new issue prices will have no cause to regret having done so, for

Northern Nigerias are rapidly going beyond the ordinary purse. The 10s is now a recognised rarity. When it became obsolete it soon ran up to double face at the auctions. Last month a copy fetched £2. and at a later auction this month it has run up to £2.10.0. The other high values of the same colony, Queen's head, are also getting very scarce. A pair of the 2s 6d. at a recent sale ran up to £1.14.0. Southern Nigerias are not likely to be near so rare, for there were larger supplies. Still, they are not plentiful, and should be secured at present prices. The 1s especially will probably go higher.

I hear that the sale of U. S. Panama Canal stamps is very brisk on this side. Apparently the printing of the overprint was done rather hurriedly for it is evident that there was no time to remove defective letters. There are several in the sheet before me, all of which will, I suppose, be eagerly seized on by those who add broken letters to their variety list. My sheet, or rather pane, is the left hand lower pane. In this in the last stamp in the second row the "L" has almost disappeared; in the eighth stamp of the third row the lower half of the "P" has gone; in the fifth stamp of the fourth row, the left leg of the first "A" in "PANAMA" is broken off; in the seventh stamp of the fifth row, the "A" and "N" of "CANAL" are broken badly; in the seventh stamp of the eighth row the second "A" and the adjoining "M" of "PANAMA" have little more than the tops left. There are other defects, but these are the worst I have noticed.

Will the anti-surchargite on your side withstand all these tempting historical surcharges? Surely he will be sorely pressed to keep a stiff upper lip over U. S. colonials, for is not the earliest history of U. S. colonial developements writ boldly and large in these same surcharges.



Notes Upon Stamps and their Varieties.

BY GEO. L. TOPPAN.

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[Continued from page 267.]

Griqualand.

1877.

These stamps consist of the stamps of the Cape of Good Hope which were current at that time surcharged with a "G" of various types. There were three settings for this issue.

G G G G G G G

Fig. 453. Fig. 454. Fig. 455. Fig. 456. Fig. 457. Fig. 458. Fig. 459.

Setting A :—This consists of seven principal varieties of the letter "G" as illustrated by figures 450 to 459. There are, also, two sub varieties which very closely resemble figures 455 and 458.

The surcharge was printed upon half sheets of 120 stamps and is in black upon the one penny and in red upon the one half penny, four pence (both with and without outer frame-line) six pence, one shilling and five shillings.

Setting B :—This setting is only known from fragments of sheets and seems to have been largely made up of the "G" illustrated above as figure 456 and others which are very similar to it. It is also, prolific in broken letters. It is printed in red upon the one shilling and five shillings values.

G G G G G G G G G G

Fig. 460. Fig. 461. Fig. 462. Fig. 463. Fig. 464. Fig. 465. Fig. 466. Fig. 467. Fig. 468.

Setting C :—This setting consists of ten principal varieties of the "G" (one of which is the same as figure 459 of setting A), nine of which are illustrated above as figures 460 to 468. There are, also, three sub-varieties which closely resemble figures 460 and 466.

It was printed, in black, upon half sheets of 120 stamps on the one penny, four pence (without frame) and six pence.

1878.

G

Fig. 469.

G

Fig. 470.

Setting D :—There are but two varieties of the "G" in this setting ; a small, antique letter (Fig 469) and a small, Italic one (Fig. 470), which are about equally divided in the setting.

The surcharge is in red on the one half penny and the four pence (without frame) and in black on the one half penny, one penny, four pence (with and without the frame), and six pence.

The surcharge exists inverted, double, double with one inverted and in both red and black with one or both inverted.

G

Fig. 471.

Setting E :—This consists of a small, Roman "G" (Fig. 471) printed in black upon the one half penny, one penny, four pence (without the frame) six pence, one shilling and five shillings stamps.

Guadeloupe

1884.



Fig. 472.

20c on 30c brown on bistre.—Of this stamp (Fig. 472) two varieties are known, as follows :

Var. A.—The "2" of "20" is much larger and heavier than in the normal type.

Var. B.—There is an accent over the "E" of "G. P. E."

25c on 35c blue on orange.—Three varieties are known.

Var. A.—The "2" of "25" is much larger and heavier than is normally the case.

Var. B.—The "5" of "25" is larger and heavier than in the normal variety.

Var. C.—There is an accent over the "E" of "G. P. E."

1889.



Fig. 473.

5c on 1c black on lilac blue.—This stamp, of the type illustrated as figure 473, shows the following varieties :

Var. A.—The "s" of "CENTIMES" omitted.

Var. Surcharged "5" only, "CENTIMES" having been omitted.

10c on 4c red on straw.

15c on 20c red on green.

25c on 30c brown on bistre.

A variety of the above three values exists in which the left side of the upper portion of the surcharged frame is inverted.

1891.



Fig. 474.



Fig. 475.

30c brown on yellowish.—The following errors are to be found in the surcharge upon this stamp. (Fig. 474).

- Var. A.—"GNADELOUPE" instead of "GUADELOUPE".
- Var. B.—"GUADELOUEP" " " "
- Var. C.—"GUADELONPE" " " "
- Var. D.—"GUADEBLOUPE" " " "

80c carmine on pinkish.—The following varieties are found in this stamp, which is of the type illustrated as figure 474

- Var. A.—"GNADELOUPE" instead of "GUADELOUPE".
- Var. B.—"GUADELOUEP" " " "
- Var. C.—"GUADELONPE" " " "
- Var. D.—"GUADEBLOUPE" " " "

The balance of this series, all of which are of the type illustrated as figure 475, also have the misspelled varieties, as follows :

1c black on lilac blue.

- Var. A.—"GNADELOUPE" instead of "GUADELOUPE".
- Var. B.—"GUADELOUEP" " " "
- Var. C.—"GUADELONPE" " " "
- Var. D.—"GUADEBLOUPE" " " "

2c brown on buff.

- Var. A.—"GNADELOUPE" instead of "GUADELOUPE".
- Var. B.—"GUADELOUEP" " " "
- Var. C.—"GUADELONPE" " " "
- Var. D.—"GUADEBLOUPE" " " "

4c claret on lavender.

- Var. A.—"GNADELOUPE" instead of "GUADELOUPE".
- Var. B.—"GUADELOUEP" " " "
- Var. C.—"GUADELONPE" " " "
- Var. D.—"GUADEBLOUPE" " " "

5c green on greenish.

- Var. A.—"GNADELOUPE" instead of "GUADELOUPE".
- Var. B.—"GUADELOUEP" " " "
- Var. C.—"GUADELONPE" " " "
- Var. D.—"GUADEBLOUPE" " " "

10c black on lavender.

- Var. A.—"GNADELOUPE" instead of "GUADELOUPE".
- Var. B.—"GUADELOUEP" " " "
- Var. C.—"GUADELONPE" " " "
- Var. D.—"GUADELOUPE" " " "

15c blue

- Var. A.—"GNADELOUP" instead of "GUADELOUPE".
- Var. B.—"GUADELOUEP" " " "
- Var. C.—"GUADELONPE" " " "
- Var. D.—"GUADEBLOUPE" " " "

20c red on green.

Var. A.—"GNADELOUPE" instead of "GUADELOUPE".

Var. B.—"GUADEL·OUEP" " " " "

Var. C.—"GUADELONPE" " " " "

Var. D.—"GUADEBLOUPE" " " " "

25c black on rose.

Var. A.—"GNADELOUPE" instead of "GUADELOUPE".

Var. B.—"GUADELOUEP" " " " "

Var. C.—"GUADELONPE" " " " "

Var. D.—"GUADEBLOUPE" " " " "

30c brown on bistre.

Var. A.—"GNADELOUPE" instead of "GUADELOUPE".

Var. B.—"GUADELOUEP" " " " "

Var. C.—"GUADELONPE" " " " "

Var. D.—"GUADEBLOUPE" " " " "

35c deep violet on orange

Var. A.—"GNADELOUPE" instead of "GUADELOUPE".

Var. B.—"GUADELOUEP" " " " "

Var. C.—"GUADELONPE" " " " "

Var. D.—"GUADEBLOUPE" " " " "

40c red on straw.

Var. A.—"GNADELOUPE" instead of "GUADELOUPE".

Var. B.—"GUADELOUEP" " " " "

Var. C.—"GUADELONPE" " " " "

Var. D.—"GUADEBLOUPE" " " " "

75c carmine on rose.

Var. A.—"GNADELOUPE" instead of "GUADELOUPE".

Var. B.—"GUADELOUEP" " " " "

Var. C.—"GUADELONPE" " " " "

Var. D.—"GUADEBLOUPE" " " " "

1fr. bronze-green on straw

Var. A.—"GNADELOUPE" instead of "GUADELOUPE".

Var. B.—"GUADELOUEP" " " " "

Var. C.—"GUADELONPE" " " " "

Var. D.—"GUADEBLOUPE" " " " "

1903.



Fig. 476.

G & D
5

Fig. 477.

G & D
5

Fig. 478.

G & D
5

Fig. 479.

G & D
5

Fig. 480.

G & D
5

Fig. 481.

G & D
5

Fig. 482.

Get D
10

Fig. 483.

Get D
10

Fig. 484.

Get D
10

Fig. 485.

Get D
10

Fig. 486.

G & D
15

Fig. 487.

G & D
1 fr.

Fig. 488.

This series is replete with errors and varieties but we think that, with the aid of the above series of illustrations, it will present no difficulties to the collector. The stamps surcharged are all of the type shown as figure 476. 5c on 30c brown on bistre.—There are eight varieties of this surcharge, differing only in the letters, the numeral being the same on all.

Var. A.—The "G & D" are all in Roman capitals (Fig. 477).

Var. B.—The "G" and "D" are Roman capitals but the "&" is *sans serif* (Fig. 478).

Var. C.—As last excepting that the "G" is narrow (Fig. 479).

Var. D.—The "G" and "D" are *sans serif* capitals while the "&" is Roman (Fig. 480).

Var. E.—The "G & D" are all *sans serif* capitals.

Var. F.—The "G" and "D" are block capitals while the "&" is Roman (Fig. 481).

Var. G.—As Var. F. excepting that "G & D" are all *sans serif* (Fig. 482).

Var. H.—As last excepting the error "C" for "G".

10c on 40c red on buff.—There are eight varieties of this surcharge as follows :

Var. A.—The numerals are as illustrated in figure 483.

Var. B.—Same as Var. A but "1" of "10" inverted.

Var. C.—The numerals are as in figure 484.

Var. D.—As last but "C" for "G".

Var. E.—The numerals are as in figure 485.

Var. F.—As last no space between the "G" and "ET".

Var. G.—Numerals as in figure 486.

Var. H.—As last but "C" for "G".

15c on 50c carmine on rose (Fig. 487).—There are ten varieties here, also, and they are identical with those of the 5c value as the same setting was used with a figure "1" placed before the "5".

Var. A.—The "G & D" are all Roman capitals.

Var. B.—The "G" and "D" are Roman but the "&" is *sans serif*.

Var. C.—As last excepting that the "G" is narrow.

Var. D.—The "G" and "D" are *sans serif* capitals while the "&" is Roman.

Var. E.—The "G & D" are all *sans serif* capitals.

Var. F.—The "G" and "D" are block while the "&" is Roman.

Var. G.—As last, but "C" for "G".

Var. H.—As Var. F, excepting that "G & D" are all block.

Var. I.—As Var. F, but numerals "15" inverted.

Var. J.—Entire surcharge inverted.

40c on 1fr bronze-green on straw.—There are four varieties, as follows :

Var. A.—The numerals are similar to those of Var. A of the 10c.

Var. B.—As last, but "4" of "40" is inverted.

Var. C.—As in Var. A, but "c" for "G".

Var. D.—The numerals are similar to those of Var. G of the 10c.

Var. E.—As last, but "c" for "G".

1fr. on 75c deep-violet on orange.—There are sixteen varieties of this value, due to combining the varieties of the lettering of the 5c with two varieties of numerals which, for brevity, we will call types I and II.

Type I.—The numeral is tall and thin. (Fig 488).

Type II.—The numeral is short and thick as in figure 486.

We will now proceed to the list of varieties, which is as follows :

Var. A.—Lettering A, numeral I.

Var. B.—Same as A, but numeral inverted.

Var. C.—Lettering B, numeral I.

Var. D.—Same as C, but numeral inverted.

Var. E.—Lettering C, numeral I.

Var. F.—Lettering D, numeral I.

Var. G.—Same as F, but numeral inverted.

Var. H.—Lettering E, numeral I.

Var. I.—Lettering G, numeral I.

Var. J.—Same as I, but numeral inverted.

Var. K.—Same as J, but numeral above "G & D".

Var. L.—Lettering H, numeral I.

Var. M.—Lettering F, numeral I.

Var. N.—Same as M, but numeral inverted.

Var. O.—Lettering G, numeral II.

Var. P.—Lettering F, numeral II inverted.

POSTAGE DUE STAMPS.

1879.



Fig. 489

15c blue.—Three principal varieties of this stamp, which is of the same type as figure 489, are known, as follows :

Var. A.—"PER EVOIR" instead of "PERCEVOIR".

Var. B.—"PERCEVO'R" " "

Var. C.—There is no "c" after "15".

30c black.—There are two principal varieties of this stamp. (Fig. 489).

Var. A.—There is no "c" after "30".

Var. B.—There are two dashes below the "3" of "30".

1884.



Fig. 490

5c black.—There are three principal varieties of this stamp (Fig. 490) as follows :

Var. A.—Small "u" after "G", thus: "GUADELOUPE".

Var. B.—Small "o", thus: "GUADELOUPE".

Var. C.—Small "A" before "PERCEVOIR".

10c black on blue.—Two varieties, as follows :

Var. A.—The second "F" of "CHIFFRE" and the lower line of the inside frame are missing.

Var. B.—The lower and side lines of the inside frame are missing.

15c black on violet.—Three varieties as follows :

Vcr. A.—The second "F" of "CHIFFRE" and the lower line of the inside frame are missing.

Var. B.—The second "U" of "GUADELOUPE" is missing.

Var. C.—The "T" of "CENTIMES" is missing.

2cc black on rose.—But one principal variety.

Var. A.—The "2" of "20" is italic.

30c black on yellow.—But one principal variety.

Var. A.—The second "F" of "CHIFFRE" and the lower line of the inside frame are missing.

35c black on gray.—But one principal variety.

Var. A.—The "G" of "GUADELOUPE" is missing.

50c black on green.—Seven principal varieties, as follows :

Var. A.—"1R" of "PERCEVOIR" sideways.

Var. B.—Second "F" of "CHIFFRE" missing.

Var. C.—The "T" of "CENTIMES" is missing.

Var. D.—The second "E" of "CENTIMES" is missing.

Var. E.—The "EV" of "PERCEVOIR" is missing.

Var. F.—There is a wide space between the "G" and "U" of "GUADELOUPE".

Var. G.—There is a wide space between the "D" and "E" of "GUADELOUPE".

The above stamps are all of the type illustrated as figure 490, and there are other minor differences of the type and setting.

1903.



Fig. 491.



Fig. 492.



Fig. 493.

These stamps are the postage due stamps of the French Colonies surcharged in black, as above.

30c on 60c brown on cream.—There are two varieties, as follows :

Var. A.—Tall and rather thin numerals, the "3" having a straight top. "G & D" in Roman capitals the lines of which are all of equal thickness. (Fig. 491).

Var. B.—Lettering as in Var. A. Ordinary numerals of value. (Fig. 493).

30c on 1fr. rose on cream.—Two varieties, as follows :

Var. A.—This is identical with Var. B of the 30c on 60c. (Fig. 493).

Var. B.—The "G" of "G & D" is Roman and the lines are thin where the body-stroke joins the upper and lower strokes. Numerals as in Var. A. (Fig. 492).

Counterfeit Stamps of the Colombian Republic.

A number of our contemporaries, especially those of European origin, have lately announced the discovery of counterfeits of various stamps of the Colombian Republic of the regular issue of 1902 and the Barranquilla issue of 1902-03. Recent numbers of the *Revue Philatélique Française* and *La Côte Réelle* contain articles on the subject, with illustrations of the so called genuine and false stamps. After carefully perusing these articles and examining some specimens of the supposed counterfeits, which have been submitted to us, we venture to take issue with our contemporaries and express the opinion that they are mistaken in their conclusions, except in one instance.

The stamps in question are the 5c green on blue and the 20c brown on salmon of the 1902 issue, the 5 and 10 pesos of the Barranquilla issue (the color of the 10p is given as green but that of the 5p is not stated), and the 5cc of the 1887-88 issue of Panama. The last stamp is, as claimed, a counterfeit. It is very well made by some photo lithographic process. This counterfeit was described by us in the A. J. P. for June. It is in quite a different class from the other four stamps and a much superior piece of work to either the originals of the 1902-03 issues or the supposed counterfeits. As for the latter, it is our opinion that they are merely impressions from worn and badly cleaned stones and, in one instance, from a new stone made from a retouched die.

There are two reasons for counterfeiting stamps, which are: To defraud philatelists by selling the counterfeits as scarce genuine stamps or to defraud the government by using them to frank letters. When stamps are rare and bring large prices, it is easy to understand the temptation to counterfeit them and the possible profit in doing so. Philatelists know too well how frequently rare stamps are imitated. But, in case of the Colombian Republic, the stamps are neither rare nor in demand among collectors. They may be obtained for a few cents each from most dealers but, by the majority of collectors, they are despised and rejected. Let us remember that these stamps were sold freely in New York at very small prices—often as low as one cent for each dollar of face value. This would make the 5 centavos stamps worth one-twentieth of a cent each and the others proportionate amounts. It is not reasonable to suppose that counterfeiters would devote their efforts to such unpopular and low priced varieties, when they might as well turn their attention to imitating stamps which many collectors desire and are willing to pay liberally to possess.

As for making counterfeits to defraud the government, we have already pointed out the extremely low rates at which these stamps were sold to dealers in this country, but in the Colombian Republic itself, owing to the excessive depreciation of the currency, they were worth far less. Five and, at least, ten pesos was the postage on an ordinary letter. Could a large sale be found for the counterfeits to be used postally, it might possibly pay to make the 5 and 10 pesos stamps, but our understanding of conditions in the Colombian Republic is that postal transactions are very limited as compared to other countries. We have often wondered what use could have been made of stamps of 5 centavos face value at the time of the great depreciation in currency. How much less reason, then, to counterfeit them.

Turning now to the stamps themselves, let us consider the points of difference noted by our contemporaries. These are: That some lines of the designs appear to be too thick or too thin; that parts of the stamps are blurred; that some of the letters seem too large, too small or broken; that the rays behind the condor in the 20c stamps appear broken; that on the 5p the name "Valiente", on the small tablet at the bottom, shows only some irregular marks; and on the 10p the double lined circles around the figures "10", in the upper corners, have nearly disappeared. We maintain that all these defects are such as might result from inferior workmanship, allowing the lithographic stones to become worn or else clogged with ink for want of proper cleaning.

Considering only authenticated copies, known to have been purchased in the post offices at the time the stamps were in use, what do we find? The crudeness of the designs for these stamps and their very faulty reproduction on the stones, make it evident at a glance that those who did these parts of the work were indifferent workmen; yet they were, in all probability, the most skilled men in the establishments that produced the stamps. What, then, must we expect of the ordinary workmen who printed the stamps? In well conducted establishments the lithographic stones are kept clean at all times and, as they appear to require it the designs are sharpened, "rolled up", and made as good as new. The stamps made in the Colombian Republic, however, present abundant evidence of wear, clogging and general neglect. Sheets of the stamps often show an uneven distribution of ink—thin and pale at one side, heavy, blurred and dark at the other. It is easy to select several marked shades from such a sheet. We have copies of the 5 and 10p printed in the late colors and others, on the original covers, addressed to our publishers and received in the ordinary course of business, which show all the distinctive features which are attributed to the counterfeits. The 5c stamps which are submitted to us as counterfeits are positively genuine, and may be located on the original sheets by means of breaks and defects in the copies. The paper of these so called counterfeits is identical with that of the originals.

The 20c stamp is the only one in which we find real differences. The worn sunburst and the blurred lines of the coat of arms and flags do not count. These are very minor defects and may be set down to bad handling of the stones. But, in the lower part of the stamp, alterations have been made which, strange to say, have escaped the notice of those who described the supposed counterfeits. The white lines framing the figures "20" and the word "CENTAVOS" have been redrawn; instead of two faint lines below the word, there is now one strong one; the "20's" are of different shape, especially the ciphers, which are now oval instead of rectangular. The color is red brown, instead of orange brown, but the paper is identical. We maintain that even these twenty centavo stamps are not counterfeits, but merely impressions from a new stone made by means of transfers from a worn and recut die.

If evidence can be produced that our conclusions are incorrect, we are, of course, quite willing to be set right.

J. N. L.



Official Announcements.

PHILIPPINE ISLANDS,

BUREAU OF POSTS FOR THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS,
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF POSTS.

MANILA, P. I., June 16, 1904.

MR. N. C. COMFORT,
Manila, P. I.

Sir:—In reply to your letter of the 11th instant, I beg to inform you that the use of postage due stamps as evidence of payments of postage due has been discontinued.

So far as now known, the use of this kind of stamps will not again be resumed in the Philippine Islands. Enclosed herewith you will find a copy of the order in question on the subject.

The unused postage due stamps will very naturally be destroyed when the proper time comes.

Respectfully,

(Signed) C. M. COTTERMAN,
Director of Posts.

[Enclosure.]

BUREAU OF POSTS OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS,
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF POSTS.

MANILA, P. I., April 28, 1904.

General Order }
No. 18. }

Immediately upon receipt of this order, postmasters will return by registered mail to the Director of Posts all unused postage due stamps on hand in their respective offices, and the use of postage due stamps for the payment of short postage on mail matter will be discontinued.

All the rules relative to the collection of unpaid and short paid postage will be in force as heretofore, except that ordinary postage stamps will be used as evidence of the payment of such postage instead of the postage due stamps heretofore used for that purpose.

Ordinary Philippine postage stamps of the proper amount will be attached to the article when payment is made, but cancelled with the impression of the postmarking stamp to show date of cancellation and not by cancelling stamp or dauber, as is done in case of stamps attached to matter when first mailed.

Hereafter postmasters will accept unused Philippine postage stamps as well as money from the public for the payment of postage due.

(Signed) C. M. COTTERMAN,
Director of Posts.

POSTAL SERVICE.—NEW ISSUE OF STAMPS FOR NICARAGUA.

The President of the Republic, in view of the fact that the government has received a small quantity of postage stamps bearing the bust of General José Santos Zelaya, and for the purpose of celebrating the eleventh anniversary of the Revolution of July, 1903.

DECREES :

Art. 1. That there be issued the sum of ten thousand six hundred dollars in special postage stamps, which will circulate from the 11th instant on, in accordance with the following details :

4,000	stamps of	\$1.00
4,000	" "	0.50
4,000	" "	0.20
4,000	" "	0.15
10,000	" "	0.10
20,000	" "	0.05
40,000	" "	0.02
40,000	" "	0.01

Art. 2. Their custody, supply and sale shall be in accordance with the existing laws ; but in the ordinary places of sale, these kinds shall be sold at retail.

Given at Managua, the eighth day of July, 1904.

J. S. ZELAYA.

The Secretary of the Treasury, according to law,
FÉLIX ROMERO.





ANGOLA.—We illustrate the type of Postage Due stamps which is now in use in the Portuguese Colonies other than the Azores Islands.



AUSTRIA.—We quote from *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News* :

"Mr. F. Keitel informs us that the current issue of postage stamps is to be changed, as follows :

Values, 1 to 6 heller. The figures of value in the corners are to be in the same color as the stamp, on white ground.

10 to 30 heller. Figures, black on white.

35 to 60 heller. Figures, white on colored ground.

40 heller. This value also changes its color from green to violet.

The stamps will be issued as the present stocks become exhausted."



BULGARIA.—We have seen a specimen of the 10s on 15s, of 1903, with the surcharge inverted.

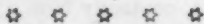


CANAL ZONE.—We illustrate a stamp of the first issue, as well as the surcharge on the United States stamps.



CANAL ZONE

PANAMA



CHILE.—Mr. Herman Schmidt shows us the 10 centavos olive telegraph stamp with the surcharge "CORREOS" inverted.

We show the designs of three stamps of this series :



COLOMBIAN REPUBLIC—MEDELLIN.—We also illustrate the latest issue of local stamps for use in the city of Medellin.



FRANCE.—OFFICES IN CHINA.—We quote from *L'Echo de la Timbrologie* : " M. Pouget has told us of the 50c brown on pale blue, allegorical group type, with the surcharge 'CHINE', and the 15c, Grasset type, with the same surcharge ; only here the word 'CHINE' is below the Chinese characters instead of above them as before. Our correspondent believes, after careful investigation, that the Grasset series so surcharged will be used in all the offices (Hoi Ha, Packhoi, etc.,) until the appearance of the regular types."



GUADELOUPE.—We have seen an imperforate strip of the 10c red of the 1900 issue.



IVORY COAST.—We illustrate the type of surcharge for the postal packet stamps which we chronicled in February.



MAURITIUS.—*Even's Weekly Stamp News* says :

" Mr. W. H. Peckitt sends us a strip of three of the 18c Foreign Express Delivery, chronicled last week, evidently Nos. 4, 5, 6 on the sheet, of which No. 5 shows the interesting error 'FOREIGN'."

It would seem that the authorities tore their stock of sheets into blocks of fifteen (5 rows of 3) and whereas the Colonial Stamps Market had the first

or left-hand section, Mr. Peckitt was fortunate enough to get the middle section containing the above error. Who had the two right-hand sections, and are there any errors or varieties in them?"

If this variety is as described and not a defective impression, there must have been two settings up of this surcharge. The stamps in the stock of our publishers are in blocks of fifteen and consist of the first, second and fourth sections of the sheet. All three sections are surcharged with one setting of fifteen, as is plainly indicated by trifling breaks and minor defects in certain of the letters, but they show nothing which might be called a real error.



NICARAGUA.—We have received some specimens of the recently issued Official stamps of the value of 2c on 3c green, upon which the word "OFICIAL" is misspelled "OFICILA".




SALVADOR.—Mr. Alfred Greenebaum has shown us some new varieties in the Official stamps of the 1899 issue. These differ from the varieties described in our catalogue in the style of control mark punched through the stamps. Mr. Greenebaum shows us several pairs and strips of the 2c gray green (our No. 578), one of which has a double punch of the group of twelve small holes, and others show a large oval "O" or a "\$".

Mr. Greenebaum informs us that he only found one or two of these varieties in each sheet and sometimes none at all in a sheet.

He also shows us a vertical pair of the 1c bistre brown surcharged with

FRANQUEO
OFICIAL



and  one of the stamps being punched with the

and the other with the "\$".

We have no information as to whether these varieties are something newly created for the edification of philatelists, or if they have been in existence since 1899 but have hitherto escaped notice.



SOMALI COAST.—We have seen the following varieties with the centre inverted :

- 5c blue-green and yellow-green
- 5c blue green and black
- 20c brown-violet and black
- 25c indigo and light blue
- 25c ultramarine and black
- 50c green and black
- 75c brown-orange and black
- 1fr orange and black



SPAIN.—We are shown by Mr. Dorsan Astruc imperforate blocks of the current 10c red and 25c blue. The blocks are cancelled and bear dates in April and May of this year.



CEYLON.—*La Cote Réelle* announces the 25c value of the King's head type with the "ON SERVICE" overprint.

Official stamp.

Watermarked Crown and C. A.

Perforated 14.

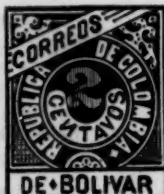
Black surcharge.

25c bistre

COLOMBIAN REPUBLIC—Bolívar.

—We have received some new stamps from this department which, by the way, is now upon a gold basis, so far as its postal department is concerned, at least.

Adhesive stamps



Imperforate.

1/2c black

1c blue

2c purple

Variety:

1/2c black, tête-bêche

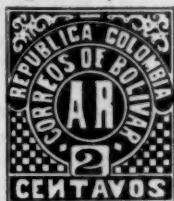
Registration stamp.



Imperforate.

5c black

Acknowledgement of Receipt stamp.



Imperforate.

2c red

Cundinamarca.—We have seen the following imperforate varieties of the stamps chronicled by us in May and July. We illustrate several of the new designs.

Adhesive stamps.



Imperforate.

2c slate
3c rose
15c pink
40c blue

Horizontal pairs, imperforate between.

2c blue
15c pink

Registration stamp.



Imperforate.
10c bistre

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC.—We have seen three new provisional stamps from this country, made by surcharging new values upon stamps of the series of 1901, our type A18.

Adhesive stamps.

Perforated 14.
Black surcharge.
2c on 50c gray-black and violet
5c on 50c gray black and violet
10c on 1p brown and violet

EAST AFRICA AND UGANDA PROTECTORATES.—Two more stamps have appeared upon the paper with the new watermark.

Adhesive stamps.

Watermarked Multiple Crown and C. A.
Perforated 14.
½a gray-green
1a scarlet

ECUADOR.—*Stanley Gibbons' Monthly Journal* announces, upon the authority of an European journal, a new series of stamps, commemorative of the battle of Fichincho, on May 24, 1824, which was won by Captain

Abdon Calderon, whose head they are supposed to bear. The central portion of the stamps is in black.

Adhesive stamps.

Perforated.

1c red and black
2c blue "
5c yellow "
10c red "
20c blue "
50c yellow "

FRANCE.—*Le Collectionneur de Timbres-Poste* announces a new Military stamp, consisting of the customary "F. M." overprint upon the 15c stamp of our type A20.

Military stamp

Perforated 14x13½.
Black surcharge.
15c slate-green

ICELAND.—Mr. William Thorne has shown us two high values of the head series, our type A4.

Adhesive stamps.

2k bistre-brown and ultramarine
5k red brown and gray-blue

INDIA.—*Holkar.*—*La Cote Réelle* lists two new values of the current set, as follows:

Adhesive stamps.

Perforated 14.
3a violet
4a blue

Jhind.—We find that we have omitted to chronicle the 3 pies gray (Queen's head) overprinted for this State.

Adhesive stamp.

Watermarked Star.
Perforated 14.
3p gray

INDO CHINA.—*La Cote Réelle* says: "The postage due stamp of 60 centimes has been transformed into 5 centimes by the addition of a large figure 5 in black."

Postage Due stamp.

Imperforate.

Black surcharge.

5c on 60c brown on cream

NICARAGUA.—The new commemorative series has reached us and we understand that the lower values were printed in practically the same colors as those of the 1903 series through an error. They can, however, be distinguished both by paper and the shade. In the old series the paper was rather yellowish; in the new it is white and somewhat thinner than the old. The shade of the old 1c is yellow green; the 2c is carmine-rose; the 5c is ultramarine and the 10c is orange-yellow.

We have not seen the new 5c stamp so cannot give the exact shade; the others are as listed below:

Adhesive stamps.

Perforated 14.

- 1c emerald-green and black
- 2c dull-red and black
- 5c ultramarine and black
- 10c orange and black
- 15c lake and black
- 20c purple and black
- 50c olive and black
- 1p orange-brown and black

NIUE.—The *Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly* notes the one shilling upon the new shade.

Adhesive stamp.

Watermarked single-lined Star and N. Z.

Perforated.

1s orange-brown

PANAMA.—Mr. A. M. Trujillo has shown us a number of the new stamps for this country and reports, in addition to those he shows us, a 50c of the same design as the other stamps of the regular postage set, but color not stated, and a peso "of different design and color."

The regular postage stamps have the map design, very similar to that

of the issue of 1892-94, with the inscription "REPUBLICA DE PANAMA" across the top and "3 de Novembre de 1903" arched above the map. There are also registration, acknowledgment of receipt and too late stamps. All the stamps are handsomely engraved and printed and, we believe, are the work of the American Bank Note Co. We shall endeavor to show these designs next month.

In July we announced the appearance of a new registration stamp, made by surcharging a registration stamp of the Colombian Republic with the word "Panama" and a new value. We have recently seen the same surcharge on another registration stamp.

Adhesive stamps.

Perforated 12.

- 1c green
- 2c rose
- 5c blue
- 10c yellow
- 50c
- 1p

Registration stamps.

Perforated 12.

- 10c green
- Imperforate.

Panamá

Surcharged

in rose

.10

10c on 20c red-brown on blue

Acknowledgment of Receipt stamp.

Perforated 12.

5c blue

Too Late stamp.

Perforated 12.

2½c carmine

PENRHYN.—The *Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly* notes the one shilling upon the new shade.

Adhesive stamp.

Watermarked single lined Star and N. Z.

Perforated.

1s orange-brown

PERSIA.—The *Illustriertes Briefmarken Journal* notes another surcharge from this country. It is on our type A27.

Adhesive stamp.

Perforated $11\frac{1}{2} \times 11$.

Black surcharge.

95 on 1k violet

ST. LUCIA.—*Ewen's Weekly Stamp News* notes the appearance of one value of the current series upon paper with the new watermark.

Adhesive stamp.

Watermarked Multiple Crown and C. A.

Perforated 14.

1p lilac and carmine

SALVADOR.—*Der Philatelist* reports the 3 centavos orange, regular issue of 1903, (our number 285) surcharged for official use.

Official stamp.

Perforated $14\frac{1}{2}$.

Surcharged

in black

3c orange



SIERRA LEONE.—The one penny King's Head has appeared with the new watermark.

Adhesive stamp.

Watermarked Multiple Crown and C. A.

1p violet and carmine

SOUTHERN NIGERIA.—*Ewen's Weekly Stamp News* notes the appearance of three values of the current set with the new watermark.

Adhesive stamps.

Watermarked Multiple Crown and C. A.

Perforated 14.
 $\frac{1}{2}$ p green and black

1p rose and black

2p orange brown and black

VENEZUELA.—We have received two new series from this country. The first is very similar to those which we chronicled in July excepting that the upper label is inscribed "INSTRUCCION" instead of "CORREOS DE" and the lower label is curved instead of straight. The other is composed of official stamps of the same design as our O3 but in new colors.

Adhesive stamps.

Perforated 12

5c blue green

10c gray

25c red

50c yellow

1b claret

Official stamps.

Perforated 12.

50c claret

1b "

We illustrate the stamp chronicled in July.



ZANZIBAR.—*Ewen's Weekly Stamp News* reports a provisional issue, made by surcharging stamps of the 1899-1901 issue, with head of the late Sultan, with new values. The surcharge consists simply of the words

"Two
"One," "Two" or & in heavy-Half"
face type.

There seems to be some mystery about this issue, which was put on sale for one day in June last. The

affair seems to have been managed in a very secretive manner, and the bulk of the issue (about 800 rupees worth) were purchased by a traveller, who is described as "the Frenchman," who appeared on the scene at the opportune moment. Very few of the stamps appear to have been secured by local people or post office officials, and there is much speculation reported in them. We chronicle

them with all due reserve.

Adhesive stamps.

Perforated.

Watermarked flowers.

Black surcharge.

1 on 4½a orange and red

2½ on 7½a lilac and red

2½ on 8a olive gray and red

Lake surcharge.

1 on 4½a blue black and red

2 on 4a dark green and red

Review.

UNITED STATES STAMPED ENVELOPES.*

It is with much pleasure that we greet this addition to the philatelic literature treating upon so interesting a branch of the stamps of our own country.

To be sure, it is called a "third edition", but to one who is at all familiar with those preceeding it, it will come as an unqualified surprise; indeed, it would not be recognized at all in its new form.

It has been entirely rewritten and so amplified in every way that it has passed beyond the class of price, or check, lists and entered into that of textbooks and classics, philatelically speaking.

Its editor, Mr Victor M. Berthold, is a newcomer among philatelic authors and, if we are to judge by this, his maiden effort, he is a most welcome and valuable addition to our ranks and we hasten to extend to him the right hand of fellowship and to congratulate him most heartily upon the results of the long and painstaking study and investigation which are so clearly revealed in the pages of the volume under consideration.

Starting with the Nesbitt issue of 1852-60 and continuing through those of 1861, 1863, 1864 and 1865, one is simply amazed at the results obtained and the clear and concise way in which every point is set forth and brought home. In this connection it must not be forgotten that this very field (the Nesbitt envelopes) was the subject of a special monograph by that talented student and writer, the late Gilbert Harrison and that, since that time, authors generally have been content to accept his conclusions as final and not attempt to throw further light upon some still mooted points or to improve upon his methods of differentiating the various dies and varieties.

*Bartel's Catalogue—and Reference List—of the—United States—Stamped Envelopes—Wrappers; Letter Sheets—and Postal Cards—also those of the—Philippines, Porto Rico and Cuba—Third Edition—Edited by V. M. Berthold.—Published by J. M. Bartel's Co., Boston—1904.

This has not been so with Mr. Berthold: recognizing as have most of the envelope experts, that Mr. Harrison's measurements, by means of which most of his differences were indicated, were by no means absolute or true because they generally consisted of the distance between two letters of the inscriptions, or a letter and a numeral, neither of which were fixed quantities and, also, because it was not stated from what *point* of these letters or numerals the measurements were taken, he set to work to bring order out of chaos and to evolve a new and practically infallible series of measurements which, at the same time, would be clearly understood by even the novice.

This he has accomplished by using the space of ten millimetres as his unit for *all* measurements; applying one end of this unit to some fixed point upon the stamp and noting where the other end falls. This method is so clearly explained, both in the text and by outline drawings, that it is next to impossible for any one using it to go astray in any given case.

Other points, of course, are taken into consideration; such as the pointing of the bust to a particular letter of the inscriptions, etc.

Thus we are shown six die varieties in the one cent of 1860 and five in the three cent value of the same series. Among these we find but one point to criticize adversely, and that is of minor importance only. Of the six dies of the one cent value numbers 1a, 2a, 3 and 6 are those with the period after "Postage", while numbers 4 and 5 are from the die without the period. We should prefer transposing numbers 6 and 4, thus bringing all the varieties of the first die together instead of reporting them by numbers 4 and 5.

The three cents of the 1861 series comes in for an equally lucid explanation of its varieties but it is in the next two series, the 2c with the head of Jackson issued in 1863 and 1864, that the most remarkable results have been obtained. As is well known, these dies have always been the *bête noir* of all students and until now, no one has succeeded in clearly elucidating their multitudinous varieties.

Mr. Berthold starts off with the four well known "mother dies"; divides these clearly into five varieties most of which are found in each of the four original dies, and, not content with this, he points out six sub-varieties of die A, which are easily distinguished by the relative position of some of the letters, or numerals of the inscriptions to certain fixed points of the design.

The three and six cent values of the 1864-65 series are equally clearly pointed out and illustrated and we must admit that it has been considerable of a shock to us to realize that although it is mentioned in the list of the National Philatelic Society, no one has thought it worth while to list the two dies of these stamps when the evidence of the fact was so clearly before us as to be readily seen at a glance. One die measures 23x27 mm.; the other 25x29 mm. Four varieties of these dies are also clearly indicated and listed.

The remainder of the United States portion of the work, including the official envelopes, letter sheets and postal cards, is on a par with that portion devoted to the Nesbitt issues; every little point is brought out clearly and distinctly and the lists are brought right up to date in every particular.

A new departure, and an admirable one in our estimation, is the listing of all those envelopes and wrappers which are known only with the word "Specimen" printed upon them, under a separate heading in the appendix upon pages 77 to 79 thus eliminating them from the list of those which were regularly issued to the public.

Another equally commendable feature is the list of "Knives of equal or similar dimensions; showing their characteristic features", which is to be found upon pages 81 to 88.

The outline illustrations of the various knives each annotated so as to make it easily recognized, is another praiseworthy feature.

That portion of the work dealing with the envelopes of our insular possessions and Cuba is, so far as we are aware, the only list of the kind which has ever been attempted and the only adverse criticism which we have to offer upon it is that Hawaii is omitted though, to be sure, the Islands have issued no envelopes since they became a part of the United States.

We do not intend to comment upon the prices further than to say that we know of nothing upon which it is harder to arrive at a definite conclusion than the true value of an entire envelope and that so far as our experience goes, we believe them to be eminently fair and conservative.

The work contains errors, both of omission and commission, but was there ever a book published that did not? and, taking into consideration the magnitude of the work as a whole, we are surprised that they are so few and relatively unimportant.

One point which should not be lost sight of is that, while it is intended primarily as a text-book for the collector of entire envelopes, it is equally indispensable to the collector of "cut square" who desires to thoroughly understand and be able to differentiate the various dies and varieties.

We desire to congratulate the publishers, J. M. Bartel's Co., for the enterprise and spirit which has enabled them to push to a successful issue two such works as the one now under consideration and that upon the stamps of the Philippine Islands, which they brought out only a few months ago, as well as upon being so extremely fortunate as to have been able to obtain the aid of such competent and indefatigable students as their collaborators have proven themselves to be.

In conclusion we desire to say that the paper and typographical execution of the work are admirable and that our advice to all collectors, whether they collect entire envelopes or not, is to *buy it before it is too late* as the edition, being of only 250 copies, should be sold out almost at once.—G. L. T.

The Collectors Club.

351 FOURTH AVENUE,

NEW YORK.

The 109th meeting of the Board of Governors was held at the club house on Monday evening, August 8, 1904.

Present: Messrs. Dewing, Luff, Rich and Perrin.

In the absence of both the President and Vice-President the meeting was called to order at 8.10 P. M. with Mr. Rich in the chair.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved. The Secretary read a letter from "The British Numismatic Society" acknowledging with thanks the receipt of the silver medals donated by the Club to that society.

The Treasurer's report showing a cash balance in bank of \$908.10 was approved as read.

The report of the House Committee was read and received.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 8.40 P. M.

ALBERT PERRIN, *Secretary*.

Johannesburg Philatelic Society.

The above Society held their usual fortnightly meeting at 8 P. M. on Tuesday, July 5th, at the Masonic Hotel. Mr. Neuburger took the chair a few minutes after 8, when there were present :—Messrs. C. R. Schuler, Leon Schuler, F. H. Ansell, E. O. Meyers, R. Syme, A. Law, Max Hirsohn, S. A. Klagsbrun, W. P. Cohen, E. Harford, and W. G. Byron (Hon. Secy., Box 4967.) also one visitor, Mr. F. Smallbones.

The minutes of the last meeting read and confirmed, after which several letters of enquiry &c., from non-members were read. The Chairman referred to the subject of the B. S. A. stamps returned by Dr. Palm, who objected to the double ring cancellation, which he maintained is a fiscal cancellation. It was decided to hold the matter over until the Society hear from Dr. Palm in answer to the Society's last letter.

Mr. C. R. Schuler very kindly passed round the following rarities for the inspection of members :—

(1) Brit. Bechuanaland, 1888 issue, surcharged "One Half Penny" on three Pence, in three varieties and all postally used. (a) Surcharge Inverted. (b) HAFL instead of HALF. (c) HALF instead of HALF.

(2) Half Penny vermilion 1888 issue, surcharged "Brit. Bechuanaland Protectorate in the center. (a) Protectorate inverted. (b) Protectorate twice impressed. (c) Protectorate twice inverted.

(3) ½d vermilion 1889 issue, surcharged in the center "Brit. Bechuanaland Protectorate four pence", in four varieties. (a) Protectorate inverted. (b) Four Pence inverted. (c) Four Pence and Protectorate inverted. (d) Four Pence and Protectorate twice inverted.

(4) Brit. Bechuanaland surcharged on Cape stamps, issue of 1886, in three varieties of ½d, 1d and 2d. (a) Inverted. (b) Double surcharge. (c) Double surcharge and also inverted.

The usual business having then been disposed of the Chairman declared the Exhibition of Fiscals to have commenced. The following members exhibited :

Mr. S. A. Klagsbrun, all Foreign, which was a very extensive exhibit.

Mr. L. Schuler showed a couple of books of Brit. Colonial and Foreign, one interesting item being a £20.—unused Transvaal. The Secretary had an exhibit of Brit. Colonials and U. S. A. fiscals, his Canadian and U. S. A. being the most noticeable. But perhaps the nicest and prettiest arranged

exhibit of all was that of Mr. J. A. Smallbones, the specimens being all mounted on sheets of cardboard, and the arrangement and blending of colors was really very effective. Not only was it a fine exhibit to look at but was also so as regards intrinsic value of the stamps exhibited. At the conclusion the Chairman in a few appropriate words proposed a very hearty vote of thanks to those who exhibited, and in particular to Mr. J. A. Smallbones for his beautifully arranged and mounted exhibit. Mr. C. R. Schuler seconded, and passed unanimously.

Mr F. Smallbones, on behalf of his brother, replied thanking the Society for the kindly remarks, and hoping his brother would soon be a member of the Society.

The meeting then terminated.

The next meeting will be held at the same time and place on Tuesday the 19th, July, when an exhibition of Postage Stamps of Brit. India and States will be the chief feature.

W. G. BYRON, *Secretary*.

The usual fortnightly meeting of the Philatelic Society was held on the 19th inst., at the Masonic Hotel, Pritchard Street, Mr. M. Neuburger presiding. There was a good attendance of members, and a number of visitors were present. A copy of the "Philatelic Hand Book," by Major Evans, was presented by Mr. A. J. Cohen to the Society's library. It was arranged to have the printing of the new rules proceeded with at once. The Secretary asked for a fortnight's leave of absence, and Mr. W. P. Cohen kindly agreed to act as secretary during the absence of Mr. W. G. Byron. An exhibition of the stamps of British India and the States was then held. Mr. A. J. Cohen showed a fine general collection, amongst which were noticeable a mint specimen, four annas, also a nice used pair of same, several 1 and 2 annas unused and all the high values of the more recent issues, service surcharges, both large and small, also Indian States including many varieties and errors of surcharges. An exhibition, etc., then took place. This concluded the business of the evening. Particulars of membership may be obtained from the Hon. Secretrb, P. O. Box 4967.—*The Star*, July 26, 1904.

